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BOGGS SEES PERIL TO U.S. FROM F.B.I.

Suggests Actions of Hoover Violate Bill of Rights

By ROBERT M. SMITH
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WASHINGTON, April 6 — Hale Boggs of Louisiana, the House Democratic leader, reiterated his charges against J. Edgar Hoover today and stated "categorically" that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had had him under surveillance.

In a radio interview on the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. Boggs said, "The country cannot survive under a man who in his declining years has violated the bill of Rights of the United States."

An F.B.I. spokesman said, "We are not and never have been tapping Senators and Congressmen" and stated that Mr. Boggs was not under surveillance. He said the bureau would not comment on whether it had ever had Mr. Boggs under investigation.

However, reliable sources said that Representative Boggs had been interviewed at least twice by F.B.I. agents — on Sept. 15, 1969, and on Oct. 16, 1969. On both occasions, the Congressman was said to have been asked about the alleged efforts of a Baltimore contractor to bring influence to bear to collect claims pending with regard to an underground garage at the Rayburn House Offive Building.

Last June, a Government source said that Mr. Boggs had given a statement to the F.B.I. At the time, sources said that Mr. Boggs had been involved, in a minor way, in attempts to get the charge claims settled.

The contractor, Victor H. Frenkill, according to a grand jury presentment that was later expunged from the record, had used threats, officers of jobs and political influence to win approval for a $5-million claim against the Government.

Mitchell Seks Apology

Tonight, Attorney General John N. Mitchell said in a press release: "Mr. Boggs's statements at his press conference today now confirm the plain fact that his charges against J. Edgar Hoover and the F.B.I. have no factual basis whatever. He has made a reckless and cruel attack upon a dedicated American and an organization of loyal men and women." Mr. Mitchell called on Mr. Boggs to apologize and retract his charges.

Asked on the radio program how he knew he was under surveillance, Mr. Boggs said, "I know this because of reports that have come back to me."

A spokesman for Mr. Boggs was pressed later about the evidence for the charges. He said that the Congressman would have nothing more to say for a couple of weeks but would address the subject again after the House comes back from Easter recess April 19.

In a press release issued today, Mr. Boggs said:

"In private conversations and communications, numerous members of Congress have reported to me their firm conviction that their telephone conversations and activities are the subject of surveillance by the F.B.I.

Several members have made available to me detailed information confirming my own experience which substantiates these allegations."

Meanwhile, two F.B.I. secretaries contended tonight that they had been dismissed because they had been working during their free time at the headquarters of the National Peace Action Council, an antiwar organization planning demonstrations for April 24.

A third secretary who is still working for the bureau contended that she had been threatened with dismissal because she was doing volunteer work for the antiwar organization.

At the White House, Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said in response to a question that "the President, of course, does not favor the tapping of phones of members of Congress."

Mr. Ziegler also reminded reporters that all wiretaps had to be authorized personally by the Attorney General and said that the Justice Department had taken "strong steps" as a matter of course to make sure no unauthorized tapping was going on.

In the House, Representative John R. Rarick, Democrat of Louisiana, said, "Few around our nation will behold this overreaction from the left wing without understanding that the latest move against J. Edgar Hoover is a well-organized and coordinated program."

The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, talked with Mr. Hoover today. A spokesman for the Senator later relayed this quotation from Mr. Hoover: "I want to make a positive assertion that there has never been a wiretap of a Senator's phone or the phone of any member of Congress since I became director in 1924, nor has any member of the Congress [House] or the Senate been under surveillance by the F.B.I."